

Message Text

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ORIGIN EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SCCT-02 NEA-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07

H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01

SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 TRSE-00 IO-14 SY-04 USSS-00 EB-11

DOT-00 FAA-00 CAB-09 JUSE-00 COME-00 AID-20 SCA-01

OMB-01 /172 R

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APPROVED BY EUR/GRK:GTCHURCHILL
S/CCT - MR. GATCH
EUR/P - MR. GEHRON
EUR - MR. STABLER

----- 033648

R 032303Z MAY 74
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY ATHENS

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 091853

E.O. 11652:GDS
TAGS: PINS GR
SUBJ: TERRORISM: POSSIBLE IMMINENT DEPORTATION ARAB
TERRORISTS

REF: ATHENS 2615

1. WE SHARE YOUR OPINION THAT DEPORTATION OF TWO BSO
TERRORISTS WOULD BE UNFORTUNATE OUTCOME IN THIS CASE, BUT
WE ARE RELUCTANT GO FURTHER WITH GREEKS THAN WE
PREVIOUSLY DID WITH ITALIANS AND GERMANS WHO ALSO RELEASED
CONVICTED TERRORISTS. WE BELIEVE WE SHOULD, AS IN
PREVIOUS CASES, REFRAIN FROM VOLUNTARY PRESS STATEMENT,
BUT BE PREPARED TO RESPOND STRONGLY IF PRESS QUESTIONS
ARISE. WE HAVE PREPARED FOLLOWING PRESS GUIDANCE TO BE
USED WHEN AND IF TERRORISTS ARE DEPORTED AND ON IF
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ASKED BASIS.

2. QUOTE: ADVISORY: THIS CONTINGENCY GUIDANCE IS FOR USE WHEN AND IF AN OFFICIAL ANNOUNCEMENT IS MADE BY THE GREEK GOVERNMENT OF THE DEPORTATION OF BSO TERRORISTS.

3. QUESTION: THE GREEK GOVERNMENT HAS COMMUTED TO LIFE IMPRISONMENT THE DEATH SENTENCES OF THE TWO PALESTINIANS CONVICTED OF KILLING FIVE PEOPLE, INCLUDING FOUR AMERICANS,

AT THE ATHENS AIRPORT LAST AUGUST AND IT HAS ANNOUNCED THAT IT WILL DEPORT THEM. WHAT DOES THE U.S. THINK OF THIS DEVELOPMENT?

4. SUGGESTED REPLY: WE ARE VERY DISAPPOINTED BY THE DECISION OF THE GREEK GOVERNMENT TO DEPORT THE TWO BLACK SEPTEMBER TERRORISTS WHO ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE MASSACRE AT THE ATHENS' AIRPORT. WE CONTINUE TO BELIEVE THE MOST EFFECTIVE WAY TO COUNTER TERRORISM IS TO APPREHEND AND APPROPRIATELY PUNISH THE PERPETRATORS. DEPORTING INDIVIDUALS CONVICTED OF MURDERING INNOCENT PEOPLE IS NOT THE ANSWER TO DETERRING FURTHER TERRORIST ACTIVITIES.

5. QUESTION: HAVE WE TALKED TO THE GREEKS ABOUT THIS?

6. SUGGESTED REPLY: THE GREEK GOVERNMENT HAS BEEN MADE FULLY AWARE OF OUR POSITION ON TERRORISM THAT I HAVE JUST DESCRIBED.

7. QUESTION: WHAT WAS THE GREEK REACTION?

8. SUGGESTED REPLY: I DO NOT BELIEVE IT APPROPRIATE FOR ME TO COMMENT ON THE GREEK GOVERNMENT'S REACTION.

9. QUESTION: WILL THIS HAVE ANY EFFECT ON THE TERRORISTS IN KHARTOUM?

10. SUGGESTED REPLY: THEY ARE STILL IN PRISON AWAITING TRIAL AND WE HAVE NO REASON TO BELIEVE THAT THE TRIAL WILL NOT PROCEED. UNQUOTE RUSH

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